

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A semiconductor device comprising:

a first interlayer insulating layer;

a plurality of wiring lines which are formed of Cu ~~whose concentration is equal to or higher than 10^{19} atoms/cm³~~, said plurality of wiring lines formed on said first interlayer insulating layer;

an insulating layer which has a property that Cu is unlikely to enter said insulating layer and which insulates between said plurality of wiring lines; ~~and~~

a second interlayer insulating layer formed on said insulating layer having a property that Cu is unlikely to enter therein; and

at least one adhesion layer, formed in an interface between said plurality of wiring lines and said insulating layer, for adhering said plurality of wiring lines to said insulating layer,

wherein each said at least one adhesion layer has a polishing rate which is essentially equivalent to a polishing rate of said plurality of wiring lines.

2. (Previously presented) The semiconductor device according to claim 1, wherein said insulating layer comprises HSQ (Hydrogen Silsesquioxane).

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) A semiconductor device according to claim 1, ~~further comprising:~~

~~at least one adhesion layer formed in an interface between said plurality of wiring lines~~

~~and said insulating layer, said at least one adhesion layer allowing said plurality of wiring lines and said insulating layer to adhere to one another;~~

~~wherein each said at least one adhesion layer has a polishing rate which is essentially equivalent to a polishing rate of said plurality of wiring lines~~

wherein a concentration of said Cu is equal to or higher than 10^{19} atoms/cm³.

5. (Previously presented) The semiconductor device according to claim 4, wherein at least one of said at least one adhesion layer comprises tungsten.

6-13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) A semiconductor device comprising:

a multi-layer insulating layer, comprising:

a middle layer comprised of PAE (Poly Arylene Ether);

an upper insulating layer and a lower insulating layer between which said middle layer is sandwiched, said upper and lower layers each comprised of HSQ (Hydrogen Silsesquioxane); and

an opening formed in a predetermined position in said PAE layer and said HSQ layers; and

a wiring line formed within said opening, said wiring line comprised of Cu having a concentration equal or higher than 10^{19} atoms/cm³, said upper insulating layer and said lower insulating layer thereby forming an insulating layer which has a property that Cu is unlikely to enter said insulating layer.

15. (Previously presented) A semiconductor device comprising:

a first interlayer insulating layer;

a first layer of low permittivity material formed on said first interlayer insulating layer, said low permittivity material having a property that a migration of copper is limited in said material;

a first plurality of sections of copper being embedded in said first layer of low permittivity material;

a second interlayer insulating layer formed on said layer of low permittivity material,

wherein said first interlayer insulating layer and said second interlayer insulating layer have a property in strength that offsets a property in strength of said first layer of low permittivity material.

16. (Currently amended) The semiconductor device of claim 15, wherein said first interlayer insulating layer and said second interlayer insulating layer each comprise SiN, and

said first layer of low permittivity material comprises hydrogen ~~silsesquixane~~ silsesquioxane (HSQ).

17. (Previously presented) The semiconductor device of claim 16, further comprising:

a bottom layer formed below said first interlayer insulating layer, said bottom layer having at least one copper conductor line,

wherein said first interlayer insulating layer has a hole formed therein, said hole allowing at least one copper conductor line in said bottom layer to connect with one of said first plurality of sections of copper embedded in said first layer of low permittivity material.

18. (Previously presented) The semiconductor device of claim 17, further comprising:

a layer of adhesive material being formed at an interface between said first layer of low permittivity material and each of said first plurality of sections of copper being embedded therein.

19. (Previously presented) The semiconductor device of claim 18, wherein said adhesive material comprises tungsten (W).

20. (Previously presented) The semiconductor device of claim 15, further comprising:

a third interlayer insulating layer formed on said second interlayer insulating layer;

a second layer of low permittivity material formed on said third interlayer insulating layer, said low permittivity material having a property that a migration of copper is limited in said low permittivity material;

a second plurality of sections of copper being embedded in said second layer of low permittivity material; and

a fourth interlayer insulating layer formed on said second layer of low permittivity material.

21. (Currently amended) The semiconductor device of claim 20, wherein said first interlayer insulating layer, said second interlayer insulating layer, said third interlayer insulating layer, and said fourth interlayer insulating layer each comprising SiN, and

wherein said first layer of low permittivity material and said second layer of low permittivity material each comprises hydrogen ~~silsesquixane~~ silsesquioxane (HSQ).

22. (Previously presented) The semiconductor device of claim 20, further comprising:

a layer of adhesive material formed at an interface between said second layer of low permittivity material and each of said second plurality of sections of copper being embedded therein.

23. (Previously presented) The semiconductor device of claim 22, wherein said adhesive material comprises tungsten (W).

24. (Previously presented) The semiconductive device of claim 20, said third interlayer insulating layer has a hole formed therein, said hole allowing a one of said first plurality of sections of copper to connect with one of said second plurality of sections of copper.

25. (Previously presented) A semiconductor device comprising:

a first interlayer insulating layer comprised of a first material;

a middle insulating layer on said first interlayer insulating layer, said middle insulating layer comprising an organic polymer;

at least one copper wiring section embedded in said middle insulating layer; and

a second interlayer insulating layer formed on said middle insulating layer, said second interlayer insulating layer comprised of said first material,

wherein said first interlayer insulating layer, said middle insulating layer, and said second interlayer insulating layer form a system that serves to confine a migration of copper ions from said at least one copper wiring section to be within said middle insulating layer.

26. (Currently amended) The device of claim 25, wherein said first material comprises SiN, and said middle insulating layer comprises hydrogen ~~silsequixane~~ silsequioxane (HSQ), said HSQ having a property that a migration of copper ions is limited therein.

27. (Currently amended) The device of claim 25, wherein said first material comprises hydrogen ~~silsequixane~~ silsequioxane (HSQ), and said middle insulating layer comprises Poly Arylene Ether (PAE), said HSQ having a property that a migration of copper ions is limited therein so that said first interlayer insulating layer thereby provides a lower layer to confine said migration of copper ions and said second interlayer insulating layer thereby provides an upper layer to confine said migration of copper ions.

28. (New) A semiconductor device, comprising:

- a first interlayer insulating layer;

- a plurality of wiring lines which are formed of copper (Cu), said plurality of wiring lines formed on said first interlayer insulating layer;

- an insulating layer which has a property that Cu is unlikely to enter said insulating layer and which insulates between said plurality of wiring lines; and

- a second interlayer insulating layer formed on said insulating layer having the property that the Cu is unlikely to enter therein,

- wherein said insulating layer has a surface region whose Cu concentration is equal to or higher than 10^{19} atoms/cm³.

29. (New) The semiconductor device according to claim 28, wherein said insulating layer has an inner region whose Cu concentration is lower than 10^{19} atoms/cm³.
30. (New) The semiconductor device according to claim 29, wherein said insulating layer comprises Hydrogen Silsesquioxane (HSQ).
31. (New) The semiconductor device according to claim 30, wherein a thickness of said insulating layer comprising HSQ is equal to or more than 50 nm.
32. (New) A semiconductor device, comprising:
- a plurality of copper (Cu) wiring lines; and
 - an insulating layer which insulates between said plurality of Cu wiring lines,
 - wherein said insulating layer has a surface region whose Cu concentration is equal to or higher than 10^{19} atoms/cm³.
33. (New) The semiconductor device according to claim 32, wherein said insulating layer has an inner region whose Cu concentration is lower than 10^{19} atoms/cm³.
34. (New) The semiconductor device according to claim 33, wherein said insulating layer comprises Hydrogen Silsesquioxane (HSQ).
35. (New) The semiconductor device according to claim 34, wherein a thickness of said insulating layer comprising HSQ is equal to or more than 50 nm.

36. (New) The semiconductor device according to claim 35, wherein said inner region of said insulating layer is an inner region of a position which is 50 nm or more from a surface of said insulating layer.

37. (New) The semiconductor device according to claim 36, wherein said insulating layer directly contacts Cu.